

**Southfield Road Improvement Project (Mt. Vernon Street to 13 Mile Road)
Meeting Summary – November 17, 2025**

1. Introductions

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) and representatives from the City of Southfield, the City of Lathrup Village, the Village of Beverly Hills, and Southfield Township (not in attendance) met at the RCOC Beverly Hills office to discuss the Southfield Road Improvement Project, Mt. Vernon Street to 13 Mile Road. The list of attendees is on page 3.

2. Status of Environmental Assessment (EA)

The Southfield Road Improvement Project will transform the 5-lane road into a 6-lane boulevard. The corridor was broken into four individual segments:

- Segment 1: Just south of Mt. Vernon Street to Meadowood Avenue (south of I-696)
- Segment 2: 11 Mile/I-696 Interchange area (Meadowood Avenue to Cambridge Boulevard)
- Segment 3: Cambridge Boulevard to just south of Edwards Avenue (north of 12 Mile Road)
- Segment 4: Just south of Edwards Avenue to just north of 13 Mile Road

Section 4(f) document was prepared for compliance review alongside the EA. Section 4(f) and EA have both undergone multiple revisions with MDOT and FHWA. The latest EA revisions were submitted to FHWA in February 2025, but FHWA did not provide comments. Recent feedback from MDOT indicated that the project's inclusion within the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is insufficient, and the project, or a portion of it, must be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Programming a project phase—Preliminary Engineering (PE), Right-of-Way (ROW), or Construction (CON)—into the TIP will provide justification to move the EA forward. Once FHWA approves the EA, RCOC must then hold a public hearing. The results of the public hearing will then be incorporated into the EA, as necessary, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be drafted for FHWA review and approval.

3. Funding

a. Options

A high-level estimate for a boulevard widening project, including PE, ROW, CON, and Construction engineering (CE), is approximately \$50 million/mile. Therefore, the Southfield Road Improvement Project's total cost is roughly \$200 million. A project this size is unique for local agencies and is typically funded through a massive earmark. Unfortunately, securing RAISE/BUILD grants for Segment 2 (I-696 Interchange area) of this project has been unsuccessful over the last two years.

RCOC had multiple meetings with MDOT and USDOT to explore funding options, including State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loans and federal loans. However, these loan options did not meet our requirements, we were not eligible for them, or both. RCOC considered obtaining a bond loan through Oakland County to cover the upfront costs of federal funding and the local match, but unsure how open the county would be, this is not a feasible option. The best option now to move forward with the EA is to request funding through the Oakland County Federal Aid Committee (FAC).

FAC currently receives Category C (Cat C) – Urban Congestion Relief funding, a mix of federal and state funds totaling about \$9 million/year, used for road widening projects. Federal funds must be obligated in the allocated year, but State funds will carryforward and accumulate. Federal funds can be advance construct (AC/ACC), but State funds cannot.

b. Best Approach

Start with Segment 1 and Segment 2: Southfield Road, south of Mt. Vernon Street to Cambridge Boulevard, in Southfield and Lathrup Village.

Total Cost – Segment 1 and Segment 2: Roughly \$100 million, with an 80/20 funding split of \$80 million in federal funding and \$20 million in local match. The local match would be split 50/50 between RCOC and the local agency based on frontage. Local share = RCOC \$10 million, Southfield \$6.25 million, and Lathrup Village \$3.75 million.

PE Phase – Segment 1 and Segment 2: Get FAC approval to reallocate FY 2027 federal funds for RCOC 3R project on Southfield, Mt Vernon to 11 Mile, to PE phase.

- Funding Breakdown: Total \$6,015,254 = Federal \$4,812,203 and Local \$1,203,051. Local share = RCOC \$601,525, Southfield \$378,961, and Lathrup Village \$222,564.

ROW and CON Phases – Break Segment 1 and Segment 2 into separate projects.

- **Segment 2:** Southfield Road, Meadowood Avenue to Cambridge Boulevard.
 - Cat C funding should be available starting in FY 2029 for ROW and FY 2030 for CON.
- **Segment 1:** Southfield Road, south of Mt. Vernon Street to Meadowood Avenue.
 - Available years for Cat C funding to be determined.

Moved to **Segment 3 and Segment 4:** Southfield Road, Cambridge Boulevard to 13 Mile Road. Breakdown of phases, funding, and funding years to be determined.

Note:

- *Estimated costs and local share, not actual costs.*
- *Available Cat C funding year based on the previous project not requiring additional funding.*
- *Cat C federal funding may need to be advance construct (AC/ACC) for several years based on ROW and CON costs and available Cat C funding.*

4. Next Steps

Segment 1 and Segment 2: Southfield Road, south of Mt. Vernon Street to Cambridge Boulevard.

- **A resolution by the governing council or board confirming Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase project commitment and acknowledging responsibility for the required local share by January 6, 2026.**
- Add PE Phase request to FAC agenda for approval at the upcoming meeting on January 20, 2026.
- Long-term commitments can be made once the PE phase is underway, and impacts and costs are better understood.

All Segments: RCOC continues to seek funding opportunities, including grants, earmarks, etc.

Meeting Attendees

Name, Title	Agency
Gary Piotrowicz, Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer	RCOC
Sam Fitzer, Director of Engineering	RCOC
Brad Knight, Director of Planning & Enviro. Concerns/I.T.	RCOC
Jeff O'Brien, Design Engineer Manager	RCOC
Michael Smith, Project Development Manager	RCOC
Carissa Markel, Transportation Planning Manager	RCOC
TJ Connolly, Planner III	RCOC
Nate Jessee, Environmental Concerns Manager	RCOC
Leigh Schultz, City Engineer	City of Southfield
Mike Greene, City Administrator	City Of Lathrup Village
Scott Ringler, Partner	Giffels Webster
Justin Wellman, Partner	Giffels Webster
Neil Johnston, Public Services Director	Village of Beverly Hills
Warren Rothe, Village Manager	Village of Beverly Hills
Susie Stec, Planning & Economic Development Director	Village of Beverly Hills